



BY THE COMMISSIONER OF UNION COUNTY,
GEORGIA
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS WEEK
PROCLAMATION



WHEREAS, Food allergies are a growing public health concern. An estimated 15 million people in the United States have food allergies, including 6 million children under the age of 18. Furthermore, research indicates that the prevalence of food allergies is increasing among children; and

WHEREAS, eight foods account for most food-allergic reactions: milk, eggs, peanuts, tree nuts, wheat, soy, fish, and shellfish. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats food containing an ingredient to which he or she is allergic, as very small amounts of an allergen can cause a reaction, which may result in hives, swelling of the throat, or respiratory distress; and

WHEREAS, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, food allergy results in more than 200,000 ambulatory care visits a year involving children under 18. Reactions typically occur when an individual unknowingly eats a food containing an ingredient to which they are allergic. 4% of students are affected by food allergies, and the incidence is increasing. 1 in 5 students with food allergies will have a reaction while at school. 25% of severe food allergy reactions at school happen to students with no previous known food allergy; and

WHEREAS, there is no cure for food allergy, and scientists do not understand why. Strict avoidance of the offending food is the only way to prevent an allergic reaction; and

WHEREAS, Eating away from home can pose an increased risk to people affected by food allergies, as research suggests that food served in restaurants or other food service establishments triggers almost half of fatal food allergic reactions; and

WHEREAS, Strict avoidance of food allergens and early recognition and management of allergic reactions to foods are important measures to prevent serious health consequences, including anaphylaxis, a serious allergic reaction that is rapid in onset and may cause death; and

WHEREAS, Failure to promptly treat food anaphylaxis with epinephrine is a risk factor for fatalities, and prompt administration is crucial to successfully treat anaphylactic reactions; and

WHEREAS, There are many state and national organizations, including **Northeast Georgia Food Allergy Support Group, The Food Allergy & Anaphylaxis Connection Team, and Food Allergy Research and Education**, are dedicated to ensuring the safety and inclusion of individuals with food allergies while educating the general public, schools, restaurant management, daycares, and food allergic individuals about life threatening allergic reactions, risk management procedures, and how to enact an emergency action plan. Northeast Georgia Food Allergy Support Group works in Fannin, Gilmer and Union counties to increase both awareness and education about food allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, and other related conditions; now

THEREFORE I, Lamar Paris, Commissioner of Union County, Georgia, do hereby proclaim **May 13-19, 2018**, Food Allergy Awareness Week in Union County, Georgia, and encourage our community to increase their awareness of causes and symptoms of food allergies and anaphylaxis.


Union County, GA Commissioner Lamar Paris

